

One of the primary outcomes identified in Shenandoah's Strategic Management Plan is the restoration of the vistas around which Skyline Drive and the park's 69 overlooks were developed. The park's Cultural and Natural Resource Division, district maintenance, and trails crews began a five-year program in October 1997, primarily funded by the Fee Demonstration Program, to turn back the results of 20 years of deferred maintenance. Integrated Pest Management, extensive landscape and field research, and just plain hard labor are yielding impressive results and visitor appreciation. The park is looking into the possibility of long-term maintenance of the overlooks through prescribed fire.



Wherever possible, specimen trees have been retained at overlooks and, when documented trees are missing, are being replanted.



Range View Overlook (mile post 17.1) before and after clearance. The interpretive wayside discussed a vista almost entirely blocked by second growth vegetation.

Photos on this page by Mary Lowe.



*Long vista adjacent to milepost 6.0 on Skyline Drive before and after clearance. Ailanthus altissima, an exotic, was the dominant second growth species.*



*The photographs show "The Point" Overlook (milepost 55.6 on the Skyline Drive) before and after clearance.*

*Photos on this page by John F. Mitchell.*